



Art
Media
Music

Floral Street School

SPECIAList EDITION

Technology
Phys Ed
Health

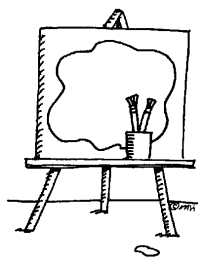
May 2006

Volume 6

Gotta Have Art: The Review

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Happy Spring!!!!

Happy News about Professional Development! I was awarded a Japanese Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship! This means I will travel to Japan during the month of June with a delegation of 200 teachers chosen from across the country. The JFMF Scholarship Teacher Program provides American primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with opportunities for professional development through short-term (3 weeks) study visits to Japan. The program is designed to provide educators with first-hand opportunities to experience Japanese culture and education through school visits, interactions with teachers and students, seminars, and home stays. Upon returning to the U.S., I will share my experiences from Japan with students, colleagues, and communities in the form of curriculum improvement, development of teaching materials, workshops, and other activities.

Currently in the art room, some fourth grade classes are

finishing their Edward Hopper one perspective drawing by coloring them with chalk pastels. While other fourth grade classes are finishing their Japanese brush drawing of Plum blossoms. Their next project will be making ceramics.

Third grades have two projects as well. One group is creating relief prints, while the other group is exchanging art with a school in Yokohama, Japan. I had the benefit of college students at UMASS, Amherst translate the friendly letters contained on the pictures.

Second graders finished their collage of El Greco's painting, and are now working on a picture that uses texture to create the image.

Art Exchange pictures are arriving from Madras, India; Tokyo, Japan and Ghana, Africa and should be on display in the school. Please be sure to see them. They are astounding!!!

My thanks go to everyone for making this a wonderful year at Floral Street School ☺

Konichiwa,
Robert Wilson



around the



Hello From the Music Room!

Hello everyone!

First graders are busy in music class playing rhythm band instruments. They are also singing some new songs about Earth Day, and animal habitats. Keep up the great work, First Graders!

Second graders are just finishing up with *the Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saens. Look for the listening guide coming home this week! They are also learning new songs about Earth Day, bats, nocturnal animals, and the continents.

The Third Graders have been studying their recorders using a method called "Recorder Karate." After April vacation, they will be working on their Red belts (My Kayak.) There are only two more belts after that! The Brown (Old MacDonald) and the Black (Ode to Joy!) Then we will be playing an informal concert during their music class for the

second graders. Super job, Third Graders! You should be proud of your playing!

Fourth graders have been busy writing music using regional poetry as their inspiration. The choruses are sounding fantastic and are getting ready for the upcoming spring concerts!

Musically yours...

Mrs. DeBlois



Fourth Grade Chorus Concerts

Dates and Times:

Weds, May 10th at 6:30pm

Edgren, Peltola, Wilson

Weds, May 10th at 7:30pm

Conlon, Scavone, Manning

Thurs, May 11th at 6:30pm

Hoey, Portuondo, Jackson

All concerts will be held in the gym.

Hope to see you there!

Media Matters

Happy Spring to all! Hopefully the weather will continue to be pleasant as we end with April showers and look forward to flowers and trees that bloom in May!

First graders continue to enjoy the stories by Don and Audrey Wood. It would be very difficult for the students to choose a favorite from the many we have shared. Some of the most popular include: *Red Racer*, *Heckedy Peg*, *Elbert's Bad Word*, *Jubal's Wish*, *The Princess and the Dragon*, *Rude Giants*, *Little Penguin's Tale*, *The Tickle Octopus*, and *The Flying Dragon Room*. I'm sure the children would like to revisit these stories! They may be checked out from the Shrewsbury Public Library or through the inter-library loan system.

While we continue to read the literature of Chris Van Allsburg, we have taken a sidetrack to focus on information skills—in particular, gathering information to answer questions. Second graders are investigating parts of a book that help them locate information, namely, the table of contents, index and glossary. This skill will be revisited many times and will aid our young researchers of the future!

In third grade, we also have taken a short

break from investigating folktales and have made a connection with the classroom social studies curriculum. The American Revolution has been a hot topic recently in the third grade classrooms including the taxes imposed by King George III! We read several historical fiction books from this time period. Students learn that historical fiction is based on a real event that happened or a person that lived in the past but then the author weaves a story around that happening/person. It is important for students to realize that historical fiction cannot be used for research even though the author usually includes a note in the book explaining some of the true facts about the event or person.

In preparation for the English Language Arts portion of MCAS, fourth grades reviewed the dictionary and thesaurus. Typically, every year there are some questions on this topic included on the test. The students study dictionary skills in the classroom but sometimes it is good to brush off the cobwebs and refresh this information!

Keep on reading!
Martha Paine
Media Specialist



Noise from the Gym

Spring is in the air! It is time to shake off the winter blues and get outside for physical education classes.

We have been busy with Fitnessgram testing for endurance, flexibility and strength. Students will be bringing their fitness sheets home to share their scores and Healthy Fitness Zones. During our classes we have discussed many ideas for improving our overall fitness. Let's get physically active!

Field days are just around the corner. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. Extra volunteer sheets are available in the gym office for those who are still interested. Dates are:

Grade 1~ Tues. June 6th from 12-3

Grade 2~ Tues. June 6th from 9-12

Grade 3~ Thurs. June 8th from 9-12

Grade 4~ Thurs. June 8th from 12-3

Rain dates are same time and day, only a week later.

Just a reminder that sandal and flip flop weather is here. If you like wearing sandals, remember to bring your sneakers in your backpack. Don't miss out on giving your body a workout!

Walk for exercise!

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Lane



Health Issues

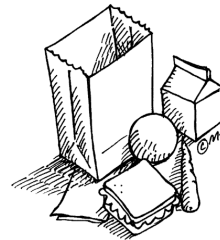
Don't be surprised if your fourth grader becomes a Food Label Investigator. In health the students learned about the nutrients found on all labels, % daily values and serving size. We were amazed at the ingredients in our food and how some labels were deceiving. Now we know how to read the label and make better choices.

The FSS Drug Task Force will be in full swing during the next few weeks. The students are researching drugs such as inhalants, marijuana, tobacco and alcohol. In groups, they will prepare and present information

about their drug topic. They are looking forward to teaching their friends what they learned.

You are what you eat!

Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Smith



Read the labels



Tech Connect

Students in grade 3 have finished their sound unit by creating sound waves themselves. Using a program called *Garage Band*, students spoke into a microphone and witnessed the sound waves their voices created. We then experimented with pitch. We were able to change the pitch of their voice, and play back their recordings. Students heard their voices change from a chipmunk sounding voice when we increased the pitch to a very low deep voice when we decreased the pitch.

They also had a chance to see the sound waves that were created by various musical instruments. We saw what a sound wave looked like when an instrument was played softly or loudly. We also saw that there was a flat line when there was no music being played. Students loved hearing what each instrument sounded like when we changed the pitch. This was a wonderful way to help students make connections between what they heard and the visible sound waves that were created.

Many of our grade 4 students are learning about the Midwest and Western regions of the United States by becoming immersed in the study of Lewis and Clark. They have learned how important this expedition was to the settling of our country. Students are exploring the physical features and climate of the area. They read about the types of people who went on this journey with Lewis and Clark and the hardships they encountered. Children discovered just how many new species of plants and animals Lewis and Clark noted in their journal entries. As we read through their journals, looked over the maps Lewis and Clark created, and viewed the many drawings they made of plants and animals, we realized just how important primary source documents are in unlocking the past. As we finish this unit, we hope to compare the physical features and animals of 200 years ago to the changes taking place today.

These are a few of the Lewis and Clark websites we have been exploring:

1. Corps of Discovery Profiles:
<http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/Activities&Kids/CorpsProfiles/CorpsProfiles.htm>
2. Interactive Journey Log of Lewis and Clark:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/>
3. Packing for the Expedition:
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/lewis_clark/quiz/index.asp

Researching
Lewis and Clark

using

Exploring Sound

